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Climate Psychiatry Alliance

Commitment Statement for the NAM Network Organization Application

Climate Psychiatry Alliance is a non-profit (501(c)3) organization with the mission of raising awareness about the impacts of climate change on mental health and wellbeing and promoting engagement to mitigate the serious mental health and public health consequences and underlying causes of climate change.

Our mission is to apply the unique expertise of psychiatrists to the recognition, education, and advocacy regarding the mental health risks of the climate crisis. (Full mission/vision statement access <https://www.climatepsychiatry.org/visionandmission>)

CPA is a grassroots membership organization composed primarily of psychiatrists with allied mental health professionals. We organized in 2016 and obtained non-profit status in 2018.

We collaborate with many mental health and health groups dedicated to addressing mental health and broader public health aspects of the climate crisis. We are the leading organization specifically addressing the psychiatric impacts of climate change. We are frequently asked for contributions and interviews by numerous medical and mainstream media outlets (ranging from NPR, NYTimes, Washington Post, etc. and smaller local media entities).

Some major ongoing projects and achievements in the last year:

PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC EDUCATION:

- Curriculum development for all levels of health professional training (UME, GME, and CME)
- Creation of educational resources for the general public and across all levels of training
- Presentations for numerous professional groups, academic institutions, webinars, courses, with the creation of a Speakers' Bureau and mentorship for speakers
- Production of a comprehensive information compendium on mental health aspects of climate change for distribution on an open-source platform (known as Eco-Psyche-Pedia)
- Training for Climate Aware Therapists in essential knowledge and skills, a collaborative project with Climate Psychology Alliance
- Regular contributions to psychiatric trade journals
- Publication of peer reviewed articles in major journals
- Publication and promotion for distribution of a children's book addressing climate anxiety in children (www.amazon.com/Cocos-Fire-Changing-Climate-Anxiety/dp/0578989727)

- “Patient and Health Provider Education for Surviving Extreme Heat” brochure/poster in English, Spanish and Chinese.

ENHANCING PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL ENGAGEMENT- Our voice and reach have expanded dramatically in a short period of time:

- Instrumental in American Psychiatric Association (APA) creating a Caucus on Climate Change and Mental Health (2018) and a permanent standing Committee on Climate Change and Mental Health (2021) with CPA members serving as members and leadership of both organizational components
- Creation of key policies on climate change and mental health accepted by APA governance
- Collaborations with American Association for Community Psychiatry, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, other mental health groups and health organizations; (partial listing: <https://www.climatepsychiatry.org/allies-and-partners>)
- Successful influence of APA in shifting its major meetings to include virtual participation to reduce the carbon footprint of large-scale professional meetings

Although our major area of focus is in the domain of **Health Professional Education and Public communication**, we have projects addressing the decarbonization of psychiatric practices and larger health systems in collaboration with other health organizations through advocacy for policies addressing mitigation and adaptation. We have also contributed mental health and psychiatric content to policy and litigation briefs.